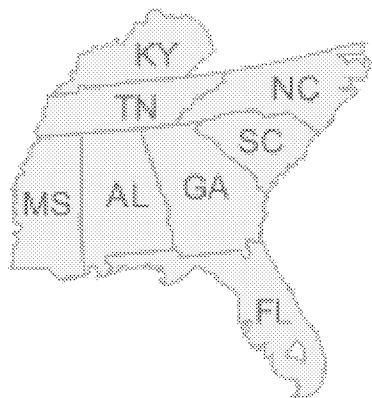


## Regional Community-Based Accomplishments

### Region 4



#### South Carolina – Leaders in Environmental Action Pilots

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) implemented the “Leaders in Environmental Action Pilots” (LEAP) program with support from the EPA’s State EJ Cooperative Agreement program. They used collaborative problem-solving approaches to address the environmental and social justice concerns in four environmental justice communities. As a result of the pilots, the Blackmon Road community, in Rock Hill, obtained a comprehensive water infrastructure study and participated in community development training. Residents from the Aiken County participated in training under the Superfund Job Training Initiative and organized the SC Environmental Justice Coalition to address EJ concerns in the state of South Carolina. The mill town communities of Graniteville, Warrentonville, and Vaucluse partnered with Clemson University’s School of Landscape Architecture to design a landscape for the green areas within the communities. They used the grant money to hire the Urban League Institute to assist with developing a Community Master Plan. In addition, the community held vision sessions in preparation for upcoming brownfields assessments. The North Charleston communities continue to address environmental issues related to expansion of the Port of Charleston. The SC DHEC was able to provide significant assistance to all four pilot communities, and in doing so brought together a number of agencies and organizations that can now continue to assist these communities toward their individual goals. A workbook and DVD to assist communities with similar issues has been developed.

#### Jacksonville, Florida

The EPA’s Jacksonville EJ Showcase Community project focused primarily on reducing environmental and human health impacts in Health Zone 1 (HZ1), the city’s urban core area. HZ1 consists of six zip codes of overburdened neighborhoods, affected by many of the health, social and education issues that are common in low-income areas, including high rates of asthma and elevated blood lead levels in children, high unemployment and low awareness of environmental hazards. The EPA’s Region 4 office utilized a collaborative, community-based approach using new and existing financial, technical and human capital resources to improve public health and the environment. Through a process of collaboration, dialogue and information sharing, the following results were achieved: a comprehensive fish and shellfish study that revealed elevated levels of several pesticides, arsenic, and industrial chemicals in several species consumed by residents of HZ1; issuance of 24 fish consumption advisory signs posted along creeks alerting residents of HZ1; a reduction in the exposures of neighborhood children to asthma triggers and lead-based paint by employing numerous outreach educational strategies targeting day care centers and thousands of residents in HZ1; several “build your own” rain barrel and community garden workshops to improve public health and provide fresh food; three community-industry forums to improve communications by fostering community-industry dialogues; and an increase in the access to community benefits through development of a community health clinic on former Brownfields and Superfund sites. The key project successes were due in large part to coordination and collaboration among the multi-stakeholder partnerships established with federal, state, local agencies and community based organizations.